



Washington Weekly

July 25, 2007



U. S. Congresswoman
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

This e-newsletter summarizes events taking place in the U. S. Congress that affect the State of Michigan, with particular emphasis on Michigan's 13th Congressional District. A printable version of this e-newsletter will also be available on my website: www.house.gov/kilpatrick.

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action for 07/16/07 through 07/20/07

S. 966, The Passport Backlog Reduction Act — Passport requests skyrocketed following the implementation of a new law that requires Americans traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport. The increase has resulted in significant delays, with many citizens waiting months to receive a passport. The Passport Backlog Reduction Act gives the State Department the authority to hire retired former staffers who are trained and authorized to process passport applications. Current law denies retirement benefits to retirees if they exceed strict wages earned and hours worked caps. The legislation approved by the House waives these requirements and makes it possible for the retired workers to return to work and to help manage the nearly three million passport applications that have not been processed. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this legislation, which passed the House by a voice vote.

H.R. 2641, FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill — When our nation faced an energy crisis in the 1970s, we responded with unprecedented initiatives for energy research. Over the years, gas prices came down, incentive was lost, and these efforts fell by the wayside. Today, we again face an energy crisis; however, this time it is coupled with the enormous challenge of addressing the reality of global climate change. This bill attempts to confront both crises by providing \$3 billion dollars to address global climate change—researching its effects and working on technologies to slow it down—and investment in renewable energy programs that both reduce greenhouse gases and help our nation meet its energy needs. The bill cuts funding for poorly thought-out plans for nuclear weapons; instead it works to keep Americans safe with a 75% increase in funding for nuclear non-proliferation efforts. It also funds Army Corps of Engineers initiatives that strengthen our nation's navigation infrastructure and improve flood control programs. Congresswoman Kilpatrick supported this measure. Despite the President's veto threat, the bill passed with a veto proof majority of 312 to 112.

H.R. 3043, FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill — This bill provides \$151.7 billion in discretionary spending in FY 2008, an increase of \$4.3 billion from the previous year. This measure makes college more affordable and increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$390 on top of a \$260 increase enacted in February. It also helps raise the achievement levels of America's students by providing \$2 billion over FY 2007 and \$1 billion over the President's request for No Child Left Behind programs. This legislation expands access to health care for the uninsured by investing in initiatives that will provide new access to healthcare for more than two million uninsured Americans. It also invests in life-saving medical research, by reversing Republican disinvestment and providing an increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of \$750 million over FY 2007 and \$1 billion over the President's request. This bill invests in community services by rejecting the President's elimination of the Community Services Block Grant and providing a funding increase for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that will help 1.3 million more families obtain assistance with home heating and cooling bills. The Congresswoman voted for this measure; it passed by a vote of 276 to 140.

To read more about these measures or any other legislation, please visit the Library of Congress' legislative information site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Contact Me

In the District

[Email Congresswoman Kilpatrick](#)

Detroit Office

1274 Library, Suite 1B
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-9004
(313) 965-9006 Fax

Downriver Office

3005 Biddle St., Room A
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 246-0780
(734) 246-1148 Fax

Washington, DC Office

2264 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2261
(202) 225-5730 Fax

[Michigan's 13th Congressional District Home Page](#)



Congresswoman Kilpatrick Visits VA Center

Congresswoman Kilpatrick recently visited the VA Medical Center to thank veterans for their courage and commitment to our country. "Throughout history, brave men and women have defended and protected our democracy. I am inspired by your service and sacrifice," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "We must ensure that you—and all those who serve our great country—receive the quality care you deserve."

The Congresswoman commended staff and volunteers for their efforts to provide quality medical care to the center patients and residents. During a tour of the facility, she talked to staff about services and programs that are designed to meet veterans' needs. Congresswoman Kilpatrick also viewed a section of the facility undergoing renovations and admired the murals depicting Motown greats and Motor City landmarks that were created by veterans.

By subscribing to my e-newsletter, you are authorizing me to send regular e-mail updates from my office to your e-mail account. If you do not want to receive this e-mail, or if you have received this e-mail in error, please accept my apologies; click the link below and you will not be contacted again.

